Corruption is a source of violation of Human Rights and generates poverty and under development.
The Sierra Leone Tax Report was launched in Freetown on the 9th November 2011, at the Hill Valley Hotel followed by a two day workshop training on Tax and Revenue collection monitoring organised by the Budget Advocacy Network (BAN) in collaboration with the National Advocacy Coalition on the extractives (NACE); with support from the Christian Aid Sierra Leone. TISL as a member of both BAN and NACE was in attendance and made meaningful contributions at the launch and training workshop. A keynote address delivered by the Commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara titled: Building a Fair, Transparent and Inclusive Tax System in Sierra Leone posited thus:

‘Today, our country Sierra Leone, continue to experience the scourge of corruption and its consequential damaging effects. In one breath, it is a reflection of weak infrastructure of governance, and at another, public perception and acceptability that nothing could be done about it. But, our message is and will continue to be: yes we can fight corruption! One sure step forward, is to build a fair, transparent and inclusive Tax System!’

By Charles Keif-Kobai

A three day Strategic Planning exercise was conducted by TISL in order to produce a five (5) year Strategic plan for it operations. The planning put into perspective the direction TISL will take in the next five years in its fight against corruption: embracing fully the public and private sectors, civil society and the citizenry of Sierra Leone.
The TISL monthly Anti-Corruption Dialogue Forum looks into the accountability and transparency of both the public and private sector and NGOs. The November edition, 2011 gathered numerous Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across the country to discuss current corruption issues and suggest the way forward in fighting corruption. This month’s discussion highlighted:

- Civil Society’s Perception on the just concluded Budget Discussion at Miatta Conference Centre, Organised by MOFED.
- Status of Payment made to opposition Parties Members in Parliament before they boycotted the state opening of Parliament.
- The indictment of Dr. William Conteh and others (members of the 50th Independence Anniversary Committee).
- Issues of accountability and transparency in NASSIT.
- And the corresponding fire incidents on state documents in government Ministries.

TISL’s annual Newsletter will give an insight of the reactions made in relation to the resolutions and recommendations made by the CSOs concerning the issues discussed in the Forum.

By Ambrose Boani

Sierra Leone moves upwards the corruption perception Index (CPI)

Sierra Leone moves upwards to 134 places on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) out of 184. This is welcoming news in the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone but, institutions in the fight against corruption are not satisfied with the position of Sierra Leone and feel they need to do more. Even though Sierra Leone moved few steps up the index, the perception on corruption; CSOs and ACC thinks remain the same and if Sierra Leone should improve its position on the CPI, all and sundry in all facet of life in Sierra Leone must join the fight against corruption.

By Abdulai Taylor Kamara

ACC makes Progress in raising revenue for the GOSL

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) recently presented to the president of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma a cheque of le 887,906,00 (eight hundred and sixty seven million, nine hundred and six thousand Leones) as monies recovered from corrupt public officials this year, and its revised National Anti-Corruption Strategic plan for 2011-2013.

By Abdulai Taylor Kamara

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) National Conference

The universal periodic review National Conference is set to examine and develop a road map and strategies for the implementation of the UN Human Rights Council recommendations. Sierra Leone’s UPR was convened from the 14th to the 15th of November, 2011 by the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL), UNIPSIL and OHCHR after the adoption of the final report by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva on the 22nd September, 2011, of which TISL was in attendance and actively participated in the two days plenary discussion sessions.

Some of the key topics discussed were:

- Signing, Ratification, Treaty Body Reporting and interaction with UN Human Rights Mechanism
- Constitutional and Legal Reform: Incorporating Human Rights Standards into Domestic Law
- Strategies to Address Women’s, Girl’s and other Rights including Policy Development.

This Bulletin will only highlight one recommendation on the topic: Signing, Ratification, Treaty Body Reporting and interaction

One of the Recommendations is:

A call on GOSL to ratify the remaining UN Human Rights Treaties and Optional Protocols, especially the one on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. For more recommendations on the UPR; look out for TISL newsletter, December edition, 2011.

By Charles Keif-Kobai
“When it comes to privacy and accountability, people always demand the former for themselves and the latter for everyone else”.

By David Brin

**INTERPRETATION OF THE ABOVE QUOTE**

Sierra Leone as part of the world community of nations, and a democratic state should have everyone in the public and private sectors, the NGOs and the ordinary citizenry accountable to themselves. If there are no sacred cows, transparency and justice will prevail thus, having the key principles of democracy at work for a better Sierra Leone.

By Ambrose Boani